



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 20, 2000

Mr. James K. Hancock
United States Department of Energy
Cloverleaf, Room 2203
19901 Germantown Rd.
Germantown, Maryland 20874

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Dear Mr. Hancock:


The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Richland office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) would like to encourage your office to support the recent proposal for the Canyon Disposition Initiative (CDI) at the Hanford Site. Five hundred thousand dollars in support from your agency is an opportunity to accelerate the characterization of selected materials currently stored in the U-Plant and to proceed with the decision process for this canyon facility. This expedited characterization can also accelerate USEPA's and Ecology's confidence in the selection of feasible remedies in the Record of Decision. This total effort will greatly facilitate determining a direction and decision for the final disposition of U-Plant and other canyon facilities here at Hanford.


The frequent meetings with Ecology, USEPA, the Richland office of the United States Department of Energy (USDOE-RL), and Bechtel Hanford representatives have been very encouraging. The regulators have been active participants in discussions, information exchanges, and problem solving. This air of professionalism and cooperation has contributed to the current level of success experienced by the CDI project and will lead to a path forward acceptable to all concerned parties for U-Plant and other canyon facilities on the Hanford Site. We all view the CDI project as an innovative method for determining the future of these large canyon facilities and possible waste disposal activities at Hanford.

Your contribution to this project will also illustrate the cooperative efforts of the USDOE programs. The USDOE offices of Environmental Restoration, Science and Technology, Facility Transition, and River Protection have funded, at times, portions of this project since its initiation. CDI is truly a multi-programmatic and cooperative effort for the benefit of the cleanup activities on the Site.

We look forward to your positive response to accelerating this CDI work.

Sincerely,


Dr. Alex Stone
Project Manager Transition Project
Washington Department of Ecology


Craig Cameron
Project Manager of CDI
USEPA

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA
John Sands, USDOE

Gary MacFarlan, BHI
Administrative Record: CDI